[27th November 1948

(1)	(2)	(3)
(4) Madras Finger Print Bureau.	Vellore ..	For administrative reasons the Government have decided to retain the Bureau at Vellore so long as the Police Training School remains there. The Finger Print Bureau and the Police Training School can be brought back to Madras when suitable accommodation becomes available.

"(c) No."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" I observe from the answer that the main reason why offices are away from the headquarters is the non-availability of premises. May I ask why the Government are not using their powers to requisition under the Rent Control Order suitable premises?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is, I suggest, not an urgent matter. The offices now located do function in their new places satisfactorily. I do not think any urgent action to displace and demand houses under emergency regulations arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask if the Government have considered the desirability of shifting more offices to the mufassal in view of acute housing accommodation in the City?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The matter is under the consideration of the Government. The Government have absolutely no information in the matter and they are trying to allocate the offices as are available both in the interest of public and the officers concerned. Whether it will function satisfactorily in Madras or in other places depends upon the availability of buildings. So the Government are considering the question and when suitable buildings become available these offices will be transferred."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not better to have all Provincial Offices in Madras having regard to the location of the City in the centre of the Province as it is now situated?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It does not seem absolutely necessary."

Issue of wholesale and retail licences to the old cloth dealers in Chingleput.

* 152-A Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to the Collector of Chingleput district to issue wholesale and retail licences for all old cloth dealers in this district;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of these dealers have been found fault with and have been fined or suspended; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some of these dealers who have misbehaved have already been given licences?

27th November 1948]

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" In the original instructions issued by the Government for the guidance of Collectors, it was stated that the following points should be considered in the matter of selection of dealers :—

(1) Whether the applicant was guilty of any grave violations of the previous control orders, such as, sale at high prices, refusal to sell, non-issue of bills, etc.

(2) Whether there were general complaints against him. Such applications were to be excluded if the Collector was satisfied that the dealer was an undesirable.

(3) Whether the applicant was guilty of strictly technical offences, such as, non-maintenance of registers, etc. Such applicants were to be considered only if there were no sufficient suitable applicants.

Several representations were received to the effect that dealers, who were long in the cloth and yarn business, were not selected in the present scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn in view of convictions for minor offences during the previous control and even in cases where the offences were of a technical or trivial nature. The Government after considering the question found that dealers who were acquitted and even those who were discharged had been indiscriminately excluded for consideration. They, therefore, decided that, that the following principles should be followed in the selection of old dealers :—

(1) All those who had a licence at the time of last control should be eligible for selection except those who were guilty of grave violations of the previous control orders such as—

(i) sale at prices higher than the controlled prices;

(ii) keeping of stocks in unlicensed premises; and

(iii) non-issue of bills.

(2) No serious view should be taken of mere warnings, convictions for petty offences and suspension of licences.

(3) All cases of withdrawal of prosecutions, discharges or acquittal should not be viewed seriously.

The Government believed that the application of these principles by the Collectors would make way for deserving old wholesalers and retailers who were left out. They, therefore, instructed all Collectors including the Collector of Chingleput to fill up all existing vacancies by selecting old dealers who became so eligible, in preference to newcomers. No other instructions have been issued to the Collector of Chingleput. These instructions, it will be seen, never contemplated the licensing of old dealers guilty of serious offences; nor did

they permit the licensing of dealers whom the Collector considered undesirable. If the Collector of Chingleput has licensed any such dealer he is clearly in the wrong, but the Government have no information."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it in the interests of the public that those dealers who have misbehaved should be given licence? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Government do not propose to punish a man in advance not knowing what offences had been committed. Unless we have something definite against a particular man it is not possible to say that he must be excluded for no ground understandable."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" I do not want anybody to be punished in advance. I do not know how he classifies as trivial offences and serious offences."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" No statement now. Question if any, may be put."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether Government have issued any instructions not to grant licences for dealing in cloth or yarn to the Members of this House or the Assembly? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" No."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Are they not excluded? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" They are not excluded."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Is it the policy of the Government not to give to the members? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It must be sufficiently clear what the policy is. If a member had been doing cloth business already I do not see why he should be excluded simply because he is a member of this House."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are there any members who were doing cloth business under licence? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I do not have any information and I do not think it worthwhile to collect the information."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government call for the information? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I suggest that there is no purpose served."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government consider that Congressmen should not be given licences? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The policy of Government has been stated and I have nothing more to add than what I have stated. There is no question of preferring

a particular class or group of people. It is the Collector that has been empowered to select the dealers. If he feels that a particular section or class of people in view of their past connexion, are fit to do business efficiently then it does not preclude him from selecting them."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it the policy of the Government to engage only dealers in urban areas calling upon the villagers to travel long distances to purchase cloth?" 11-1[illegible] a.m

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Only with a view to solving such difficulties that may possibly arise the Collectors of the districts have been given full discretion in regard to the location of the shops as they think best."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Have the Government instructed the Collectors that those who have been barred on account of misconduct in carrying on their business should not be granted licences?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I have just stated, Sir, there were cases where certain people were excluded on the ground that some warning was administered to them under the previous control orders but they were otherwise thought fit. Now the Collectors have been advised, if they are satisfied that the previous warning was for something trivial they could ignore it and grant a licence."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Has the Collector of Chingleput district recommended any cases other than the cases which were recommended by the Committee unanimously? I am a Member of the Committee and I understand that there was a unanimous recommendation of the Committee and the Collector of Chingleput has deviated from that unanimous recommendation and made separate recommendations."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I may correct the impression of the hon. Member, Sir. The Committee is only advisory. The Collector is the person who is responsible for licensing and he has got the power to deviate if he likes."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the resolutions passed by the Andhra and Tamilnad Congress Committees that Congress Members of the Legislature should not apply for or accept licences for dealing in controlled commodities?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is exactly the business of the Congress Committee concerned to look into these matters and not that of the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if any Collector has committed indiscretions and if they are brought to the notice of the Government, whether they will set them right?"

[27th November 1948

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is being done, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Are warnings which were given considered as punishments, Sir? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister has already answered the question."

SRI M. K. SUNDARAMA AYYAR :—" பழய லைசென்ஸ் ஆட்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது லைசென்ஸ் மறுக்கப்பட்டு புதிய வியாபாரிகளுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருப்பது சரியா ? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I understand the question is why old people who were there have been thrown out and new people have been given licences in Madura மதுரையில் தானே ? (to the hon. Member) (Sri Sundarama Ayyar : ' ஆமாம் ')."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I have already stated, Sir, the Government have been trying their best to see that as many of the old dealers as have no bad reputation are absorbed. The Collectors have been given discretion, as I have said, Sir, by a modified order recently issued that if there are such hard cases they could do justice."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that because they have asked the members of Legislative Council and Assembly to be consulted there is a lot of trouble? If the Collector is allowed to have his own way I think the Government can directly check and take action. Inasmuch as the members of Legislative Assembly and Council are asked to interfere the Collector himself is not able to do justice in the matter."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As a first thing, Sir, I must protest against the hon. Member's allegation that the Members are asked to interfere. I must protest, Sir, that we have not asked the Members to interfere. They were asked to advise and if any hon. Member has gone and interfered with the Collector, the Collector has got sufficient powers to over-rule the interference and exercise his own judgment. As I have already stated the responsibility in the matter is entirely that of the Collector and hon. Members are consulted only in an advisory capacity."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No doubt, Sir, hon. Members are consulted and they may not interfere. But they take the law into their own hands and the Collector is powerless."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, why the Government have asked all the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council to go to the Collector and advise? I got a note like that stating that there were 737 applicants. We were asked to give advice to the Collector as to which of them should be given licence. May I know, Sir, whether Members of the Legislature as such have

27th November 1948]

any particular knowledge on this subject and whether it may not be open to question that undue influence may be put upon them by others to get selected even though they may not deserve to be selected?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"They are supposed to have knowledge, Sir, of the Who is Who in their constituencies. That is why, Sir, it was thought that it would be better to associate their knowledge and information so that the Collectors might have their guidance. It was done purely to help the Collector to arrive at a correct decision. If any hon. Members do not want to associate themselves with this they need not go there at all."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the fact that there is a general impression both in the trade and outside that the Collector may or may not be guided by them, will the Government please see that in future if Members of the Legislature are to be allowed to advise on any matter, they will be persons capable of giving advice and not simply because they are Members of the Legislature?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I shall certainly take the hon. Member's suggestion, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, Sir, whether he made any enquiries as to why in spite of the unanimous recommendations of a particular Committee of the district, the Collector went against that recommendation?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I have no information at all, Sir, that the Collector has gone beyond the recommendations of the Committee. In fact the Government do not get any copies of what the advisory Committee has recommended. The Government only get a letter saying that the following are the people recommended and it goes to the Provincial Textile Commissioner who scrutinizes and sends it on and then it is again scrutinized by the Secretariat and orders are passed."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Has not a short notice question by Sri Muthuranga Mudaliyar suggested, Sir, that the Collector of Chingleput has gone against the unanimous recommendation of the Committee?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I do not know that, Sir."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"Is there not adequate stock of textile goods in the Province, Sir, to justify the abolition of the whole system of licensing, etc.?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"That is a matter for the Government of India, Sir."

[27th November 1948

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that while the role of the Members of the Legislature is said to be only advisory, as a matter of fact the advisory capacity develops into actual interference on account of . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Let me tell the hon. Member that the original question does not at all deal with the Members of the Legislature being Members of that Committee. If I have allowed some questions, it was because I thought that the public might be interested to know some of these things. But I am afraid too much advantage is being taken of that. When the House discusses the textile policy hon. Members can discuss these things."

Supply of yarn to handloom weavers in Chingleput.

* 152-B Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the handloom weavers in the Chingleput district are suffering very much owing to dearth of yarn;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the yarn supplied are of lower counts of 30s or 40s;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the weavers in the district required only 60s and 80s;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to make arrangements to get only 60s and 80s of yarn and distribute it where it is mostly required;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the mill-owners purposely produce lower counts of yarn instead of higher counts in order to make the Government's control ineffective;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that finer counts of foreign yarn are being imported in Madras;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that this foreign yarn is sold at black-market prices;

(*h*) whether there are no means of controlling the prices of such foreign yarn; and

(*i*) whether the Government hope to succeed in their control without controlling the prices of foreign yarn?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The information is not available in the Secretariat and a report is being called for.

"(*d*) The production of finer counts within the Province is very limited and every effort will be made to distribute equitably the available quantity of 60s and 80s among the districts that need them.